

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2661
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Purchase of Seeds at Higher Prices
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj;Singh Shri Lallu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are compelled to purchase seeds/hybrid seeds at higher prices due to the monopoly of certain multinational companies over seed business in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is likely to formulate any policy to provide seeds to the farmers at reasonable prices, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to formulate any policy to strengthen the domestic agricultural research mechanism in view of the rising monopoly of multinational companies in seed production and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the companies which are engaged in the development and supply of seeds in the country along with their output?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and National Seed Association of India (NSAI) have reported that, there is no monopoly of certain multinational companies in seed business which compels farmers to purchase seeds/hybrid seeds at higher prices as there are a large number of seed companies in India producing and distributing quality seeds including hybrids to the farmers in the country. Bt. Cotton is the only exception where 90% market share is held by BG II technology of one company and there is a near monopoly. However, this technology has also been licensed to about 50 domestic seed companies.

(b): In order to regulate the maximum sale price of Bt. Cotton seeds, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has issued the Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to ensure the availability of Bt. Cotton seeds to the farmers at reasonable prices and a maximum price of Rs. 800 per 450 gm packet of BG II Cotton seeds has been notified by Government of India for financial year 2016-17.

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(c): The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) has been continuously augmenting quality seed production and seed availability to Indian farmers. To strengthen R & D facilities, ICAR has upgraded Directorate of Seed Research, Mau to Indian Institute of Seed Science (IISS) to undertake basic, applied, strategic and anticipatory research and also to coordinate major national network projects on quality seed production and seed technology research. During the XII Plan, a regional station at Bangaluru has also been established under IISS. The IISS has been coordinating All India Coordinated Research Project – National Seed Project (Crops) having 41 centres under Breeder Seed Production and 24 centres under Seed Technological Research. This ICAR Seed Project has also been reoriented and strengthened during the XII Plan.

(d): The National Seeds Corporation (NSC), 17 State Seed Corporations (SSCs), State Agricultural Departments, several Cooperatives, 175 domestic private seed companies etc., are engaged in the development and supply of certified/quality seeds to the farmers.
